

## **Souhegan TRC Annual Report November 2006**

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch

NH Senate President, Theodore L. Gatsas

Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, W. Douglas Scamman, Jr.

Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Michael P. Nolin  
and the State Library

November 1, 2006

by the

Souhegan River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Souhegan River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2006. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, "The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the state library."

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Souhegan TRC at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/souhegan.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings. UNH's Souhegan Instream Flow Project website is at <http://www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/>.

The Technical Review Committee of the Souhegan Instream Flow Pilot Program held a meeting on November 28, 2005 to hear the final results of the evaluation of groundwater interactions with surface water (Task 2) and to hear a presentation on the development and results of Target Fish Community analysis. Task 2 identified the Affected Water Users whose withdrawals from groundwater have immediate impacts on surface water flow. This information will be applied during the Water Management Plan development to select effective alternatives for affected water users. The Target Fish Community is a major component of the MesoHABSIM habitat model for fish (part of Task 5). This model is used to define protected flows for fish for the river.

Their next meeting was held February 13, 2006. This meeting presented preliminary protected flow results of the Protected Instream Flow Study with a discussion of how those results would be used in a Water Management Plan. A detailed description was presented of what a generic Water Management Plan might include.

The March 13, 2006 meeting unveiled the first draft of the Souhegan Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report. Comments from the committee were incorporated into the next draft released in May. Because of the large volume of details, an expanded Executive Summary was called for to provide all the results without the process information..

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At the June 6, 2006 meeting the near-final version of the Souhegan Proposed Protected Instream with complete appendices was presented. These documents had been made available for review to the TRC members and other interested parties May 26 prior to the meeting. TRC members raised additional comments and questions at the meeting. The TRC approved of the use of the Executive Summary as a separate vehicle for providing the results that does not include all of the process information described in report. An additional appendix was requested to show the numerical processing for the MesoHABSIM evaluation. This appendix would show how the various data elements were used to generate protected flow recommendations for fish species from the field data. Much discussion was held concerning the remaining elements needed to present the final document to the public. The final document because of its large size will be disseminated by copies on compact disk with hard copies available at DES and at libraries in the towns along the Designated River.

### **Committee Changes**

Brian Mrazik representing USGS retired December 2, 2005 and was replaced by Jeffrey Deacon. William Ingham representing NH Fish and Game retired March 30, 2006. John Magee, Habitat Specialist at NH Fish and Game, replaced Mr. Ingham.

## SOUHEGAN RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

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